



Emergency  
911

***The Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department Inc.***

***4030 Highway N • Cottage Grove, WI 53527***



Business  
(608) 839-4343

September 15, 2020

## **COTTAGE GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY INITIATIVES**

COTTAGE GROVE – The Cottage Grove Fire Department, in conjunction with Deer-Grove EMS and our supportive municipalities, is pleased to announce several initiatives recently undertaken to increase the health and safety of our first responders and the community. In June, Deer-Grove EMS received an AFG grant to cover the purchase and installation of a new Plymovent exhaust removal system in the apparatus bay that houses all Cottage Grove Fire equipment and a Deer-Grove ambulance. A series of vents and flexible hoses connect directly to each trucks exhaust to safely remove exhaust fumes, maintaining a healthy air quality for our first responders.

In August, all PFAS containing foams were removed from our apparatus and station. PFAS are a group of largely unregulated synthetic compounds found in firefighting foam as well as several other consumer products that have been shown to increase the risk of cancer and other ailments. All CGFD apparatus that carry foam were professionally drained and cleaned. The foam removed from the apparatus, along with all other foam stores, were disposed of by North Shore Environmental Construction Inc. A safer PFAS free firefighting foam has replaced the old product.

Beginning in 2018, we have been purchasing 4-8 new sets of turnout gear (coats & pants) each year. Older and damaged gear is being replaced first as we cycle through all 35+ members. Even though our gear is washed regularly, it can still pick up and become saturated with the toxic chemicals we are often exposed to when operating in fires and other dangerous environments. This new, clean gear is better designed to help keep our firefighters safe and healthy for years to come.

The health and safety of our first responders and the community as a whole is a major concern for CGFD. We continue to monitor all industry and regulatory standards and strive to make improvements when and wherever possible.

Thank you,

Lt. Jason Kudrna  
CGFD Public Information Officer  
[www.cottagegrovefire.org](http://www.cottagegrovefire.org)